

EUROPE'S PYTHONESS MAKES NEW WAR PREDICTIONS

Mme. de Thebes, Who Foretold the Conflict, Says It Will End by July, 1915, and Sees a Republic of Germany

SHE foretold the war. Her vogue as a result is immense. They call her the pythoness all over Europe.

Even in Germany, long extracts from this French woman's predictions—notably those relating to Italy—are copied from the Swiss papers and commented on.

As for the remainder of Europe, never had a pythoness such luck.

You can look in the dictionary. A pythoness is a woman who makes predictions. The dictionary does not tell us how she does it; and neither can I. Mme. de Thebes decorates her predictions with phrases of judicial astrology, but does not insist. Mars is the symbol of conflicts, and the planet Jupiter of order and authority. They come into conjunction in 1915. Having cut, she says, we saw up—and let it go at that. The war will end by July, 1915. Evidently, the interesting question is not Jupiter, but will it?

And will a "feminine hatred" continue to pursue the reigning house of Italy? And will Bavaria enlarge her borders?

You remember, when the war broke out, how the cable flashed that Mme. de Thebes had foretold it all. It seems indisputable. Any one can procure her little almanac for 1914, issued in November, 1913. Lucien Demjan had examined it critically.

"Not only the great war is announced," says Demjan, "but the participation of Indian, Australian and Canadian contingents, and the Japanese fleet. Announced, equally, the death of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, the death of the Pope, the Irish revolt, and the attitude of Italy."

True, the Irish revolt ceased suddenly, of its own free will. True, the Archduke is mentioned as "a high personage." Personally, I have found announcements which did not materialize, such as the profound catastrophe predicted for England. Another is the financial crisis predicted for the United States in 1914, but, even here, the ensemble is striking. In the interview which Mme. de Thebes gave me in December, 1913, she repeated from her almanac:

"I have seen the hands of many American women. I regret not to have seen more hands of men. Yet the great lines are clear—a North America (say) terribly tried, shaken up and disappointed."

North America includes Canada, but I did not realize it.

"President Wilson?" I suggested.

"No," she said. "President Wilson will have a wretchedly delicate role. After having been very sympathetic, they will fall on him from all sides. Too loyal and honestly attached to what he believes his country's good."

they will find him not sufficiently of his century."

"Mexico?" I asked. (It was all Mexico in those days.)

"No," she said. "You will have no war with Mexico. Yet I see fighting and bloodshed. I see dead men. A bad year! Trouble and conflict, sudden terror, panic and violent emotions."

Surely her advice to American farmers was excellent.

"American farmers, hold your wheat and corn. You will receive high prices."

Her grain, so to speak, was mixed with chaff. She warned America against fire and water; yet I am not aware that she suffered from floods or fires, particularly in 1914. So, in Europe, she foretold terrestrial upheavals.

"France will be drawn into war, and emerge victorious," she had printed. "An era of great love, peace, hopes and labors will date from 1914, but first the field must be reddeled with blood, and fire and water mix in a combat of subterranean forces."

She even evoked earthquakes for the central plateau of France, which has not budged for half a million years! Yet she is the woman who foretold the San Francisco earthquake.

Anyhow, she foretold this war; and it impresses Europe.

She might rest on her laurels. Instead, she risks herself again. She burns her boats by making new predictions. Mme. de Thebes puts herself on record.

Now, look you, this woman is entirely French, an ardent patriot. Her personal sympathies are hotly with the Allies. Is it not, then, curious that she cannot seem to see Italy lining up beside them without preliminary catastrophe? The reference would appear to include bombardment by French and English warships!

"What tears and alarms do I still see in south Italy?" run these new predictions for 1915. "What irreparable artistic destructions! The epoch of perils will be particularly that of the summer solstice. That of amends, compensations and satisfactions of all sorts announces itself only for the end of the year."

Even the King runs a risk.

"I have new reasons to believe in a magnificent future for the reigning house of Italy," she says. "Yet the coming year threatens it. A feminine hatred, which has not disarmed, pursues it."

Political censorship of the various countries prevent the papers from discussing this "feminine hatred." Many individuals pretend to know; but I can only indicate the directions of Montenegro and Bulgaria. Mme. de Thebes is too well informed to make a mere bluff. As will be seen, her



Mme. de Thebes.

"locked cases" contain many secrets. She saw the Bosphorus purple with blood, as early as December, 1914. (I have the printed page before me.) "Turk, you must quit Europe!" she says. "I see the axis of the war displaced." Now she adds world changes in this direction which none had imagined. She sees new States created, new systems of government born, and great modifications of the map of Europe.

Germany will increase in spite of loss.

"The Germanic elements of Austria will attach themselves to Germany by the line of the Danube and community of religion." (This means enlargement on the side of Bavaria.)

She sees no luck for Austria-Hungary, threatened not alone by war, but by some ominous novelty which she draws to mention. "I see only signs of mourning and other ill than mere carnage of war. All far or near, attacking to Vienna and Budapest are cruelly menaced by trials and scourges of every order!"

Meanwhile, the Hohenzollerns dis-

appear, and the Allies enter a Germany which has become a republic. It is surprising and unexpected in a French prophetess who proclaims at the same time glorious success for France and her helpers. But Mme. de Thebes must give her message.

"For what results, O France?" she exclaims. "Not always those which you think, but others equivalent!"

And she breaks into declamation: "O France! O sublime native land! What generous enterprises are not marked on the road of destiny by the mite posse of your heroisms and bloody sacrifices!"

Amid the flowers, triumphal arches and fireworks welcoming their victorious troops, she perceives a French people "become graver and stronger, and more tender also, better attached to their national character," content to recover only their own, desiring no new conquests and "turning their backs on excessive frivolities!"

The great war will end, in the main, with the first third of the next year, that is to say, by July, 1915. Yet, as we have seen, Italy will attain her period of satisfactions only at the end of the year.

The words of the wise, and their dark sayings!

Is it monumental guessing?

Any one else is free to try it.

This is the woman who foretold to Brunetiere his election to the Academie and editorship of the *Revue des Deux-Mondes*. She warned the Marquis de Mores not to go to Africa. She predicted the tragic death of King Humbert and President Pelloux. She foretold the failure of the Paris Exposition of 1900.

The French "National Dictionary of Contemporaries" stands for it that she predicted the Charity Bazaar fire; and it is certain that Count Robert de Montequieu ascribes his self-possession during that awful moment to her advice: "You will shortly escape death by burning!" She has the credit of the San Francisco earthquake. She warned Chavez not to tempt the Alps, and Col. Astor not to tempt the ocean. And it is considered notable that, more than three years ago, she should have announced the "unheard of rise" of the Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria. Unless the unexpected stop his course.

Some ascribe her success to the "locked cases."

For thirty years past she has chatted with the great.

Autographs of kings are all over the shop. The late King Edward and that grand old jester the late King Leopold found her conversation so diverting that they often called on her, incoincidentally. The late King George of Greece did not follow her advice. The present young King Alfonso, they say, does.

In a corner of her library this woman has a quantity of locked shelves covered with heavy iron screens. What appear to be books are boxes filled with secrets.

And, as Mme. de Thebes is famous for "drawing out" people, that is, for learning as much and perhaps more from each client than he believes for himself, I myself have often wondered how much her predictions owe their success to the locked cases.

But you object, they would not help her to foretell an earthquake!

I don't know. Suppose that in the year 1904-5 a scientist of Washington or San Francisco, being on a trip to Paris, had gone to see Mme. de Thebes, as a local celebrity.

I even asked myself once, Did this woman really foretell the San Francisco earthquake, after all? Taking nobody's word for it, I sought and finally secured, second hand, a copy of Mme. de Thebes's little almanac issued in the winter of 1905. I found the place. It read as follows:

"The second period (April, May, June) will have the maximum of crises. In foreign lands, there will be physical troubles, notably in South America, and North America will be disrupted. Then the latter season of 1906 will bring to the United States an unexpected shock."

So it was true.

She had both earthquakes, San Francisco and Valparaiso. True, she had them reversed, in the wrong order. But she had them!

TELLS OF SUFFERING IN CONSTANTINOPLE

Newspaper Proprietor Recites Acts of Violence Committed by Wild Savage Hordes.

Continued from Seventh Page

Hungarian consulates the agitation against them was discontinued. It appeared at that time that many of the men and women engaged in this vice trade formed part of the network of the German spy system.

Immediately after the outbreak of the European war at the end of July, 1914, the Turks began mobilization, but the Turk is very slow and his mobilization proceeded slowly. But at the end of last October, when Turkey itself plunged into the war, they had about 750,000 more or less trained men.

At the beginning of the war the First, Third, Fifth and a part of the Sixth army corps were stationed in the Constantinople district. In all there were some 200,000 soldiers in and near the capital. The Second and the rest of the Sixth corps were stationed in Thrace. Those with several other cavalry brigades and frontier guards were scattered throughout Adrianople, Demotika and Kirk Kilisseh. The Fourth Army Corps was sent to Smyrna and its adjacent district.

But toward the beginning of this year the Constantinople troops were methodically replaced by the troops from eastern Anatolia, Syria and southern Armenia. The Turkish speaking troops were deemed unreliable, and in order to avoid any military plot to overthrow the present regime the flower of the Constantinople regulars was sent against the Russians in the Caucasus.

It was a curious sight to see these Constantinople soldiers arming the Christian Phanariotes with stolen rifles from the barracks, and bidding them to snipe the Kurdish hordes from their windows as soon as the allied door made its appearance in the Sea of Marmara. They did not expect to return. Is it any wonder that the Constantinople Eighth Regiment surrendered en masse with their regimental banner into the hands of the Russians.

Until the middle of February the military were in charge of the 135 licensed military plots and had myself attended several of these performances last December, but since January no civilians are attending these "educational picture houses," now they are entirely patronized by the soldiers. It is risky for civilians to go to the picture houses.

The purpose of these picture houses is to prove in concrete form the great German victories on land and sea. The ignorant Kurd and Arab soldiers cannot be expected to distinguish between the genuine act and the studio fought battles. I do not dare tell of some of the outrageous and untrue films that they have been finding out to the unsuspecting hordes. One of the films exhibited had this introduction:

"His Majesty the Padishah of the Alaman, conversing with Moslem Sofras (clergymen), receiving Holy Knowledge from the Holy Moslem Koran."

Of course we all know that the German Kaiser had never worn a fez and the Sofras of the film were the cheap moving picture actors, many of whom we knew by their names.

During one of these performances a young Armenian high school boy shouted: "Take off your upturned mustache, Memet Ali, and watch for your tray; you may fall over." This Memet Ali was formerly a waiter at a coffee house who was being represented in the film as the "victorious German general addressing a group of French officers in Paris."

Most of the defenders of the Dardanelles forts are German soldiers. After the fall of Constantinople they will certainly prefer to fall into the hands of the Allies rather than return to Constantinople.

BRITISH ARMY USING MOST MODERN RIFLE

By G. HASTIE BARRHAM, Associate Member Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain.

IN the present war only the British army is equipped with a modern rifle. Some of the others are using weapons designed nearly thirty years ago, and there is no doubt that the chief characteristic of the war, which is the superiority of artillery to infantry, is due to the fact that the former is the highly finished product of the modern machine tool shop, while the latter is armed with weapons which are far from being up to date, with the exception of the British rifle, which was designed only seven years ago.

Known as the short Lee-Enfield, this has an over all length of 44 1/2 inches without the bayonet, and is thus the shortest rifle at present in use. Those of the other Powers ranging from 48 to 52 inches. The British rifle, which takes a 17 inch bayonet, is the outcome of the lessons of the South African war, which showed the need for a rifle which should not be too long for cavalry use, but which should be long enough to be thoroughly fitted to all infantry requirements.

The points worthy of notice regarding it are its lightness and strength, its simple mechanism and the fact that its magazine will contain ten cartridges, as compared with five in most other designs. It can be loaded with single cartridges if required. Some of the British troops are equipped with Lee-Enfield rifles which are similar, but slightly longer, the wood casing extending some distance toward the muzzle and almost enclosing the barrel.

Both types of Lee-Enfield take the same size and pattern of cartridge. This, loaded with cordite, has a 303 round nosed bullet, weighing 210 grains, which is fired with a muzzle velocity of 2,060 feet a second. In the early days of the war a new bullet was introduced which has a sharp nickel point, and with this the muzzle velocity was raised to 2,440 feet a second.

Increased muzzle velocity meant decreased trajectory, with a corresponding increase in the danger zone. Were, for instance, one of the low velocity round nosed bullets fired at a distance of 500 yards, the trajectory would be such that the bullet would pass over the head of a six foot man standing 250 yards from the muzzle. With the new type a bullet aimed at a similar mark some 450 yards away would at five feet eight inches and so would be dangerous throughout the course. A round nosed bullet fired at a mark 3,000 feet away would at the highest part of its trajectory be 24 feet above the ground; with the new bullet the maximum height reached during such a flight would be 14 feet.

The extreme effective range of the British rifle is two and a half miles, which is greater than that of any other weapon used in the war. The weight of the short Lee-Enfield, with bayonet detached, is 9 pounds 10 ounces.

The rifle used by the French is the famous Lebel, introduced in 1888. It is ten ounces heavier than the British weapon and is nearly seven inches longer, which renders it particularly useful in bayonet work. The barrel measures 31 1/2 inches from breech to muzzle and the butt adds a further twenty inches. The chief drawback to the French weapon is that it can be fired only nine times a minute against the thirty-four and forty shots a minute of the British and German weapons respectively.

The magazine is of the tube type and the bullet, which is round nosed in most cases, has a calibre of .315. It weighs 125 grains and has a muzzle velocity of 2,050 feet a second. The later type of pointed bullet is used by the crack regiments, and this has a muzzle velocity of 2,384 feet a second. The weight and calibre of the two bullets are the same.

The Russian rifle, known as the "2 line" or Nagant, cannot be considered as modern, as it was designed more than twenty years ago. It is some four ounces heavier than the British weapon and seven inches longer. The bullet, which has a muzzle velocity of only 1,955 feet a second, weighs 214 grains.

During the past few years one or two minor improvements have been carried out in the rifle, but these cannot be said to have added greatly to its efficiency. The barrel is 31 1/2 inches in length, breech to muzzle, and has four grooves to the rifling. It is a magazine rifle, the magazine being

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of the box type and holding five cartridges.

The Belgian army uses the 1893 pattern of Mauser with a 20 inch barrel firing a bullet .301 inch in diameter with an initial velocity of 2,034 feet a second, which is exactly the same as that of the bullet fired from the Austrian Mannlicher. The rifle is 2 ounces lighter than the Lee-Enfield and the bullet weighs 218 grains. It may be noted here that Belgian soldiers carry a rifle which should have a different calibre from that used in the German army, so that in the event of European complications any rifles or cartridges captured from the Belgians would be of no use to the Kaiser's troops.

The German weapon is the Mauser of the 1898 pattern, firing a pointed bullet which weighs only 154 grains, and thus is lighter than that of the Lee-Enfield or the Lee-Enfield. The rifle will fire more rounds per minute than any other used in the war and the bullet has the high initial velocity of 2,882 feet per second, the rifle thus having an extremely long danger zone. For some reason, however, the German rifle is not of such long effective range as the short Lee-Enfield, probably on account of the lightness of the bullet, falling short in that respect by over 600 yards.

The rifle has a 28 inch barrel, with four grooves to the rifling, and the magazine, which is of the non-detachable type, holds five cartridges. The Germans are serving out at the time of writing a new bullet which weighs 227 grains, as compared with the British 210 grains. The new bullet is not nearly so efficient as the one used in the early stages of the war, as it has a muzzle velocity of only 2,200 feet a second, and gives the rifle a comparatively short danger zone. The German Mauser is nearly half a pound heavier than the British rifle, turning the scale at nine pounds one ounce.

The lightest and most easily handled of any of the European rifles is the Mannlicher used by the Austro-Hungarian forces. This weighs without the bayonet only eight pounds five ounces, while the bullet weighs 214 grains. It is of steel and has an initial velocity of 2,034 feet a second and

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The Empire State Campaign Committee will edit a section of

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